

REMARKS

Claims 4-9, 19-20, 26-28, 33, 35, 39-42, 45-46, 50-52, 55-58, 60, 63, 65, 70-71, 75, 77, 80-81 and 83 have been amended for improved clarity. None of the amendments constitutes the addition of new matter.

The Patent Office has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121, alleging that each of the following claims groups constitute patentably distinct inventions

I. Claims 1-38, 55-75, 77-79, first method of transforming a host cell with a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein having at least one chromo domain, a helicase domain, and a DNA binding domain and a first product.

II. Claims 38-54, 76, second method of transforming a host cell with a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein having at least one chromo domain, a helicase domain, and a DNA binding domain, and a second product, a transgenic plant comprising said antisense DNA or RNA molecule.

III. Claims 80-83, third product, recombinant protein.

It has been alleged that the claims groups do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1; they lack the same or corresponding special technical features because the special feature of the first group is introducing a nucleic acid molecule into a host cell, the second group involves introducing an antisense molecule, and the third claims group involves a recombinant protein.

Applicants respectfully note that the claims of Groups I and II are linked in that they take advantage of the particular coding sequence(s) related to developmental regulation. Groups I and II use the sense and antisense of the sequence(s), respectively, and Group III relates to the protein encoded by the coding sequence of the invention. Rejoinder is requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this case is in condition for allowance, and passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

If there are any outstanding issues related to patentability, the courtesy of a telephone interview is requested, and the Examiner is invited to call to arrange a mutually convenient time.

This amendment is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time (one month) and a check in the amount of \$55.00 as required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17. It is believed that this amendment does not necessitate the payment of any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16-1.17. If the amount submitted is incorrect, however, please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: 85-02
bmk: December 7, 2004